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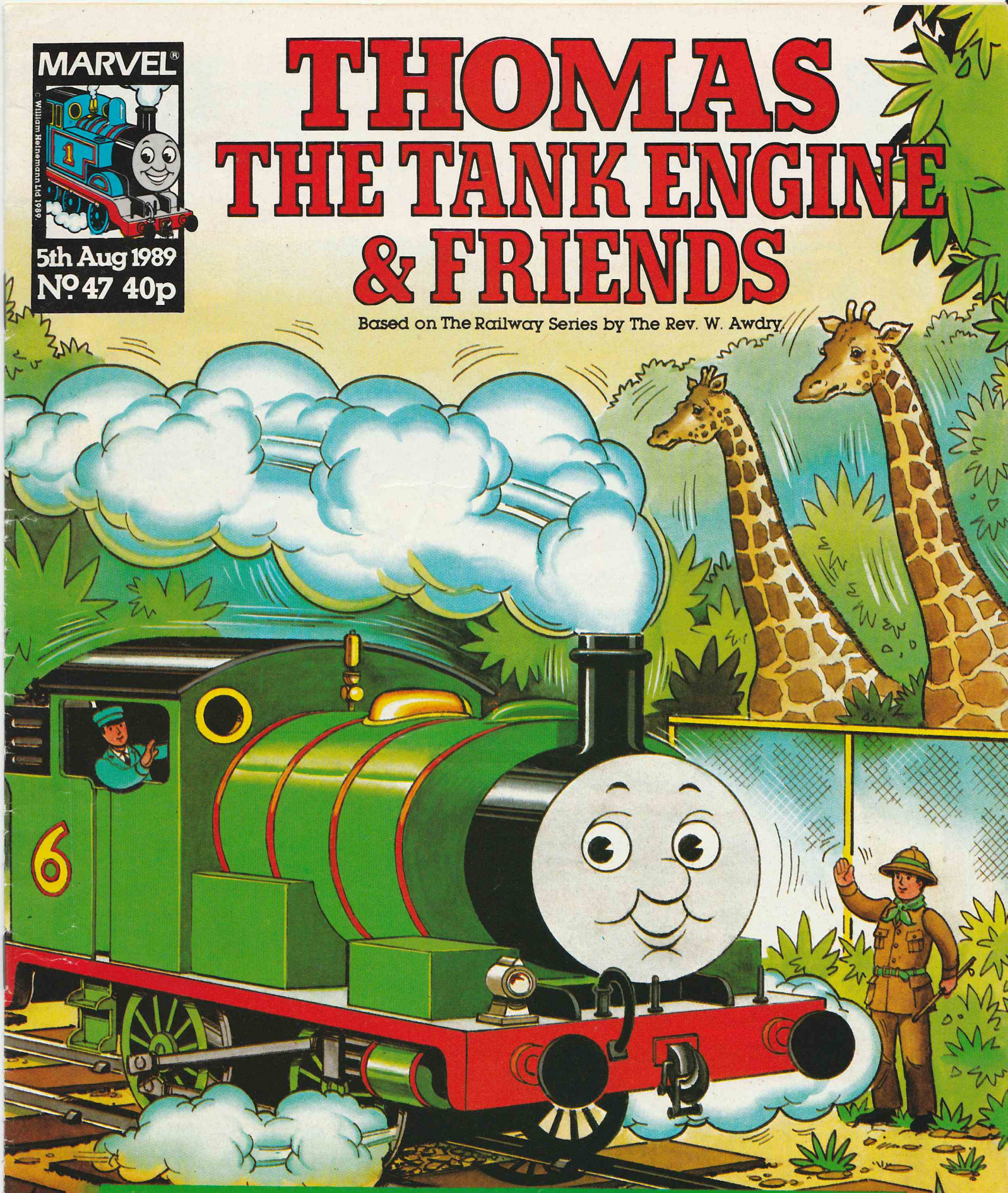
5th Aug 1989
No 47 40p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

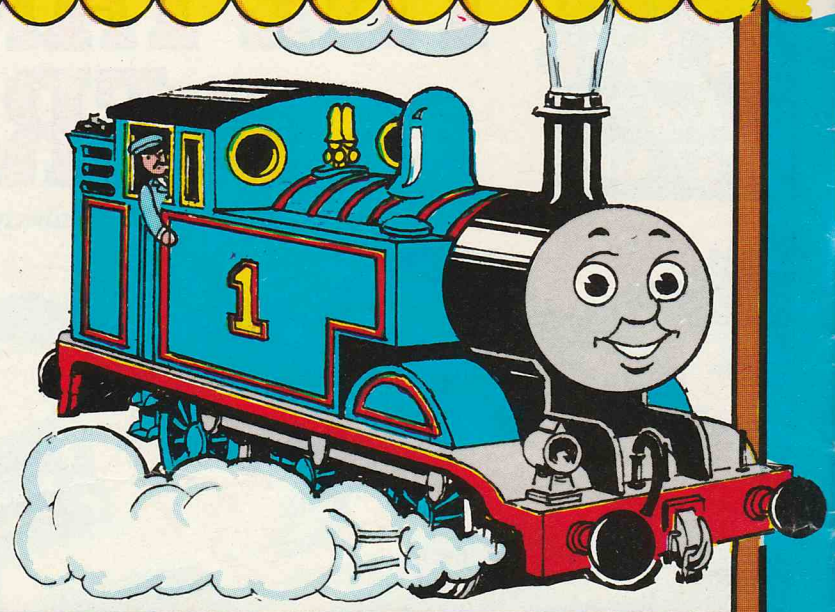
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry



Meet Percy's new friends!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Well! Well! Do you know what the strange animals on our cover are? They do have extremely long necks, don't they? Their story begins on page 13! Meanwhile, something is buzzing around in the story beginning on the next page – can you guess what it is? Bzzzz! Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

By taking out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends,** every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Details are on **page 7!**

ANOTHER WAY!

Another way to join Thomas's Club is to collect tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **yellow** one, one **green** one and one **red** one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope to:

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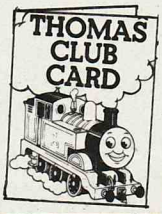


WELCOME!

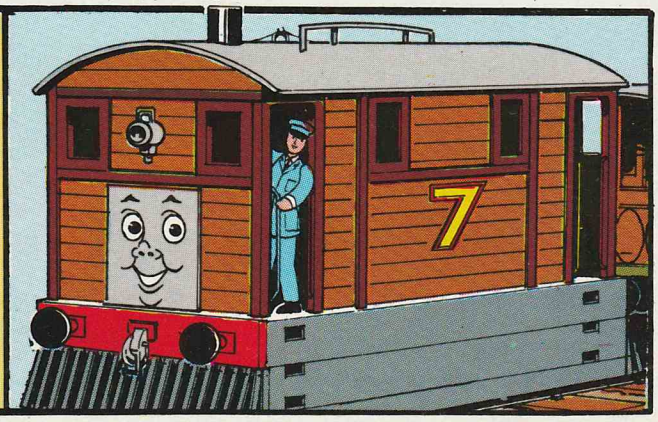
The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

Calum Sloaw (2243), Michael's baby sister **Samantha Leather** (aged 5 months!), **Adam Robinson** (11194), aged 3½, **Billy Nicol** (22108), aged 16, and **Jamie Dickerson,** aged 5!

If you'd like a special hello from the Fat Controller send him your name at the address on the letters page.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

In our next issue: Come down to the quarry with Toby and Henrietta! There's a splendid competition to enter too!



THOMAS TOKEN

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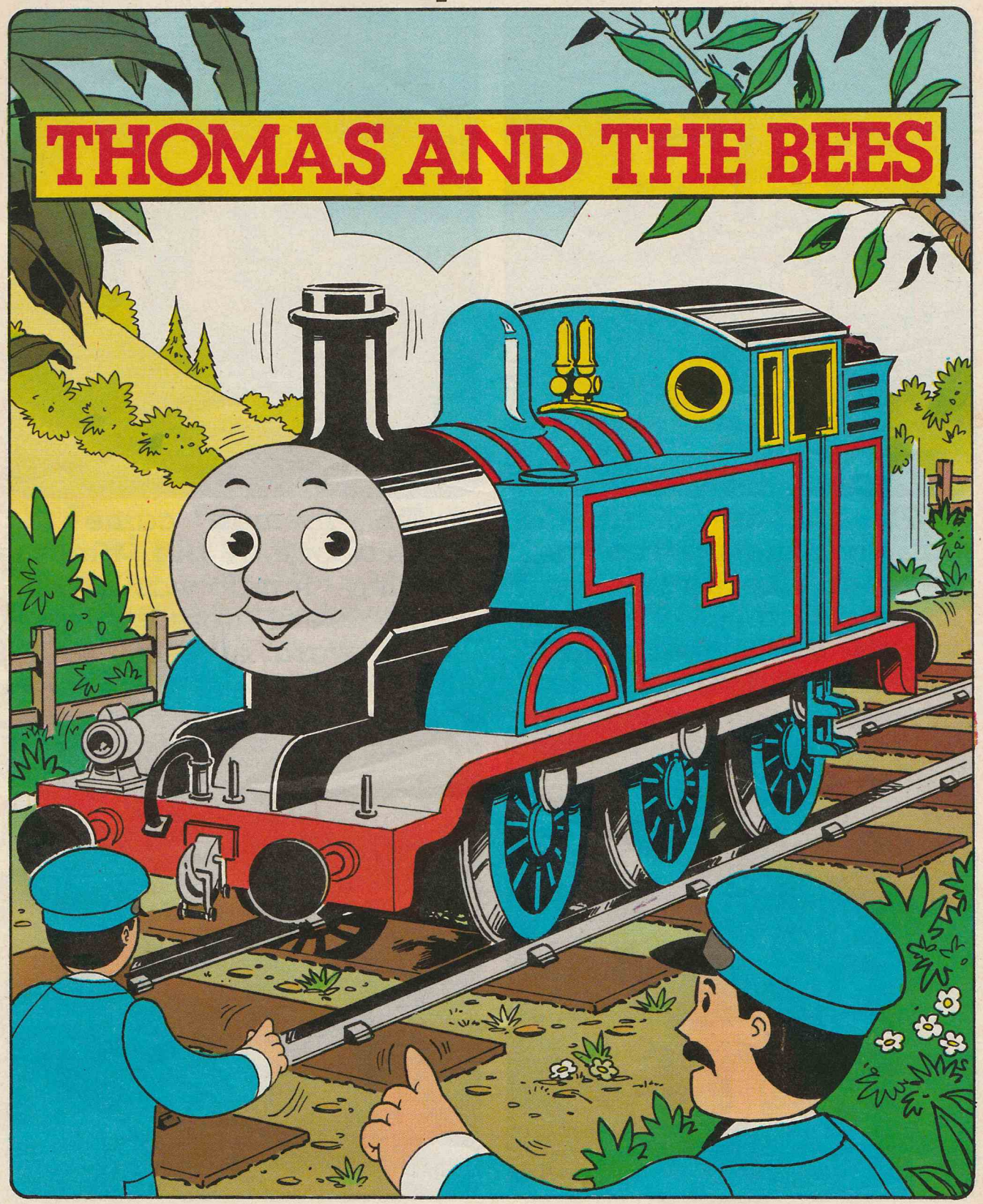
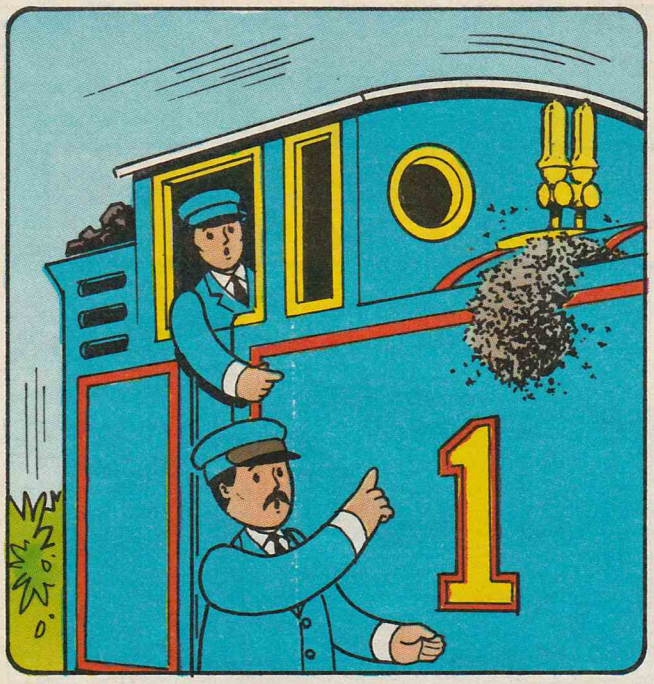
ABC

A listen and look story!



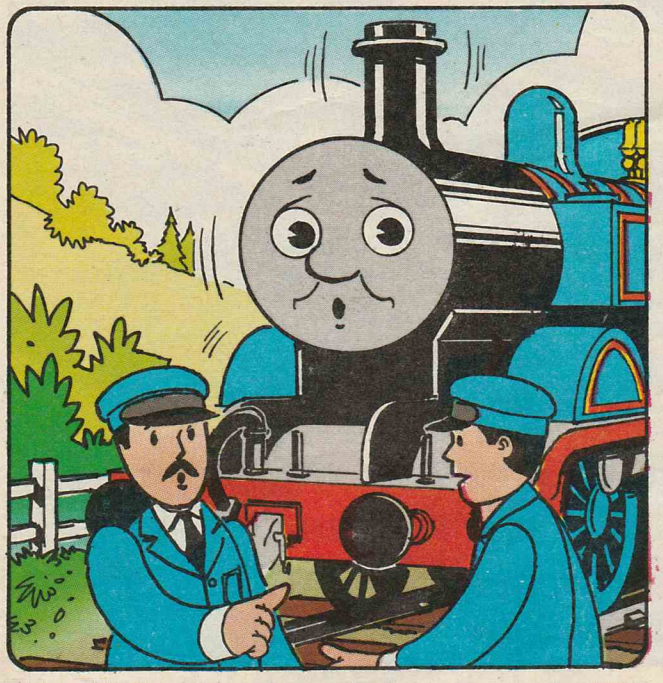
1. It was a warm spring morning. Thomas had been up early and had taken several trains up and down his branch line. Now he stood in the sunshine.

2. His driver and fireman came back from having a cup of tea. "Wake up Thomas," they said, "it is nearly time for the next train and we must not be late!"

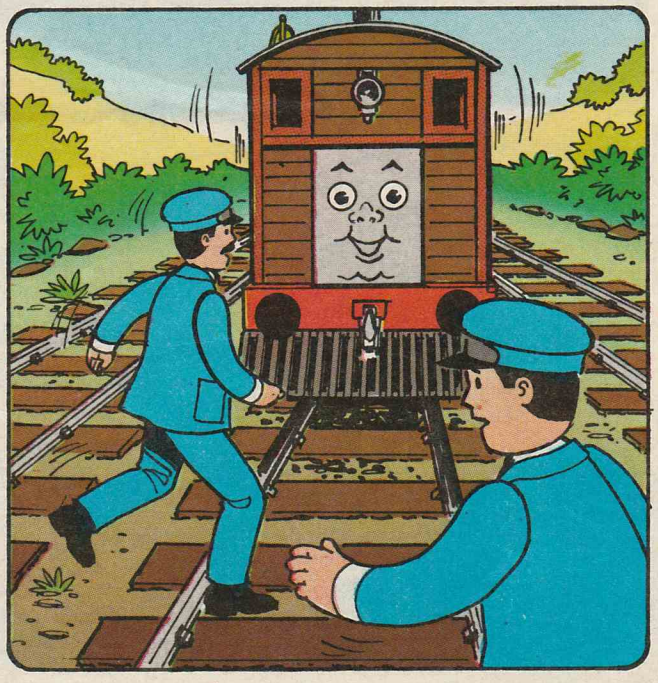


3. The fireman got into the cab to stoke up Thomas's fire and the driver went round to check Thomas's wheels. Suddenly he said, "My word! Whatever is this?"

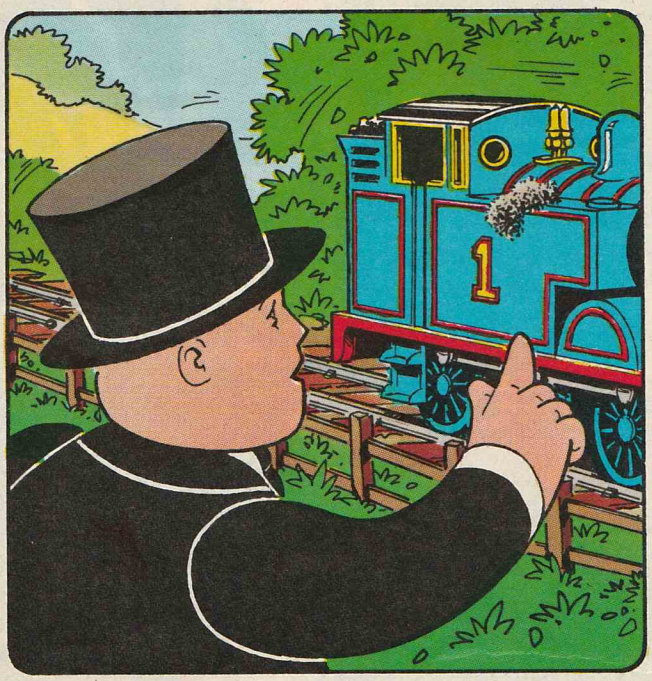
4. The fireman came to have a look. A big, black, moving lump was stuck to the side of Thomas's tank. "It's a swarm of bees!" said the fireman.



5. "What should we do?" asked the driver. "I do not know," said the fireman. "All I know about bees is they sting if they get cross, we had better keep away."

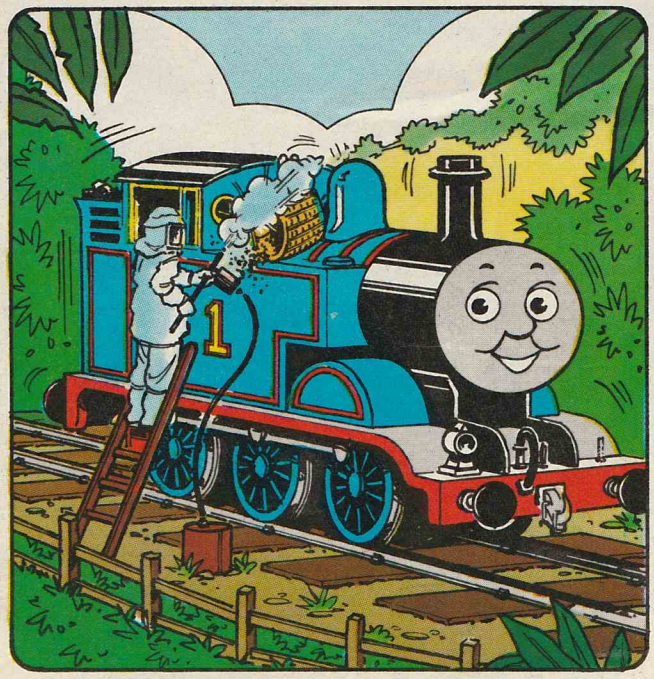


6. The driver and fireman decided to find Toby and ask him to take Thomas's train, which he did. Then they telephoned the Fat Controller.

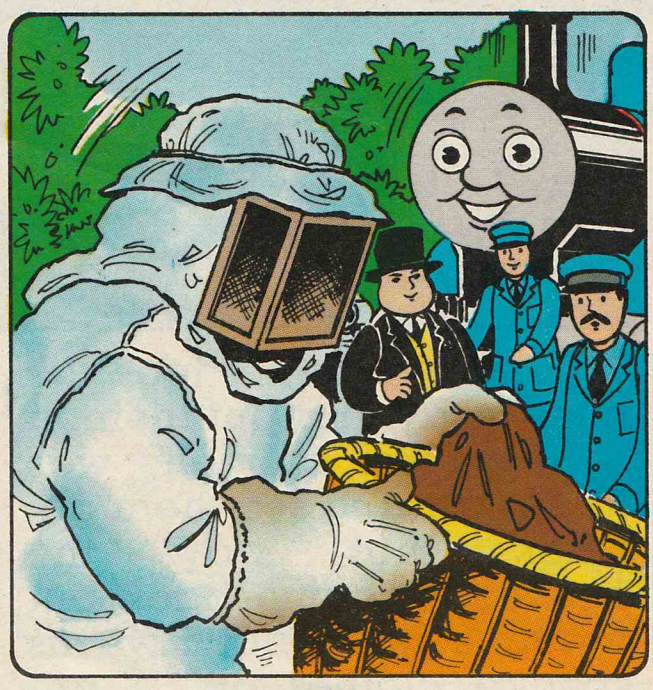


7. The Fat Controller arrived but kept well away from the bees. "One of our passengers keeps bees," he said. "I shall go and ask him if he knows what to do."

8. The beekeeper arrived in a long white costume with a net hanging over his face and gloves to keep the bees from stinging him. He was pleased to find them.



9. He placed a basket over the bees and blew smoke at them from a machine. Thomas said, "I can make smoke too!" The Fat Controller told him to keep quiet.



10. The smoke made the bees drowsy and they climbed up into the basket. When they were all in the beekeeper wrapped the basket up in a sheet.

11. The beekeeper took the bees away and put them in a new hive. Everyone was rather glad to see them go. Later that day the beekeeper came back but this time he did not have his special clothes on. "I am very glad I was able to get those bees back and it is all thanks to you," he said.

12. "They came from one of my hives and I thought I had lost them when they all flew off. I am very sorry if they caused you any trouble. I hope you will accept these honey sandwiches." He passed the sandwiches round. "This honey is delicious!" said the Fat Controller. "Not as nice as coal!" said Thomas.

THE END

In our next issue: Showing off!

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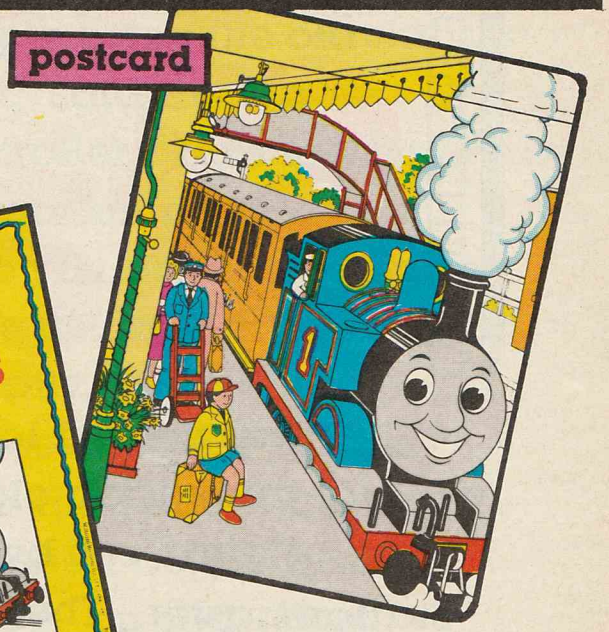

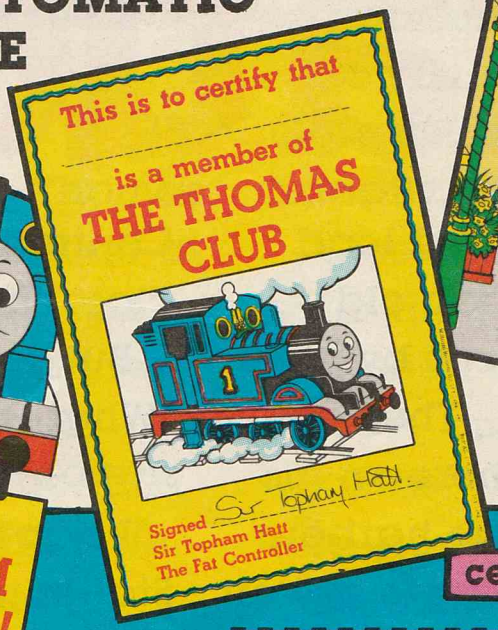

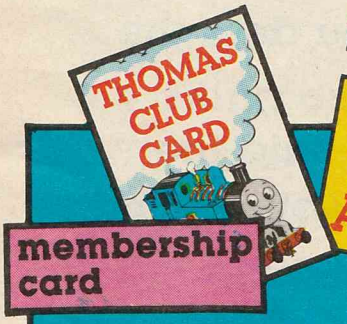

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See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

A read-aloud story!

The Old Station

Near the old lead mine is an old station run by an old Stationmaster. Thomas always stops there on his way down to the harbour but very few people get on or off.

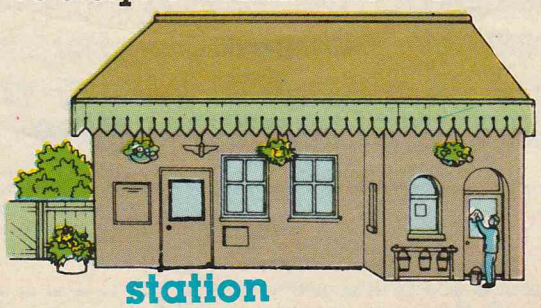
One day Thomas stopped at the old station. No one got on and no one got off. The old Stationmaster came out of the shabby building and said, "Good morning Thomas. Not very busy today! I think the Fat Controller shall have to close this station down."

"But he can't!" said Thomas. "What would you do if the station closed?"

"I don't know," said the Stationmaster. "Retire to my garden, I suppose."

As Thomas puffed along he asked his driver, "Do you think the Fat Controller will close the old station by the mine?"

"He may have to," said the driver. "Since the mine closed, there are not many people to use it."



station

The next morning one man got off at the old station. He told Thomas he was going to the lead mine.

"I'm glad you are using the station but be careful at the mine. I once fell down a hole there," said Thomas.

"The holes have all been filled in now," said the man. "I'm going there to see if it is safe."

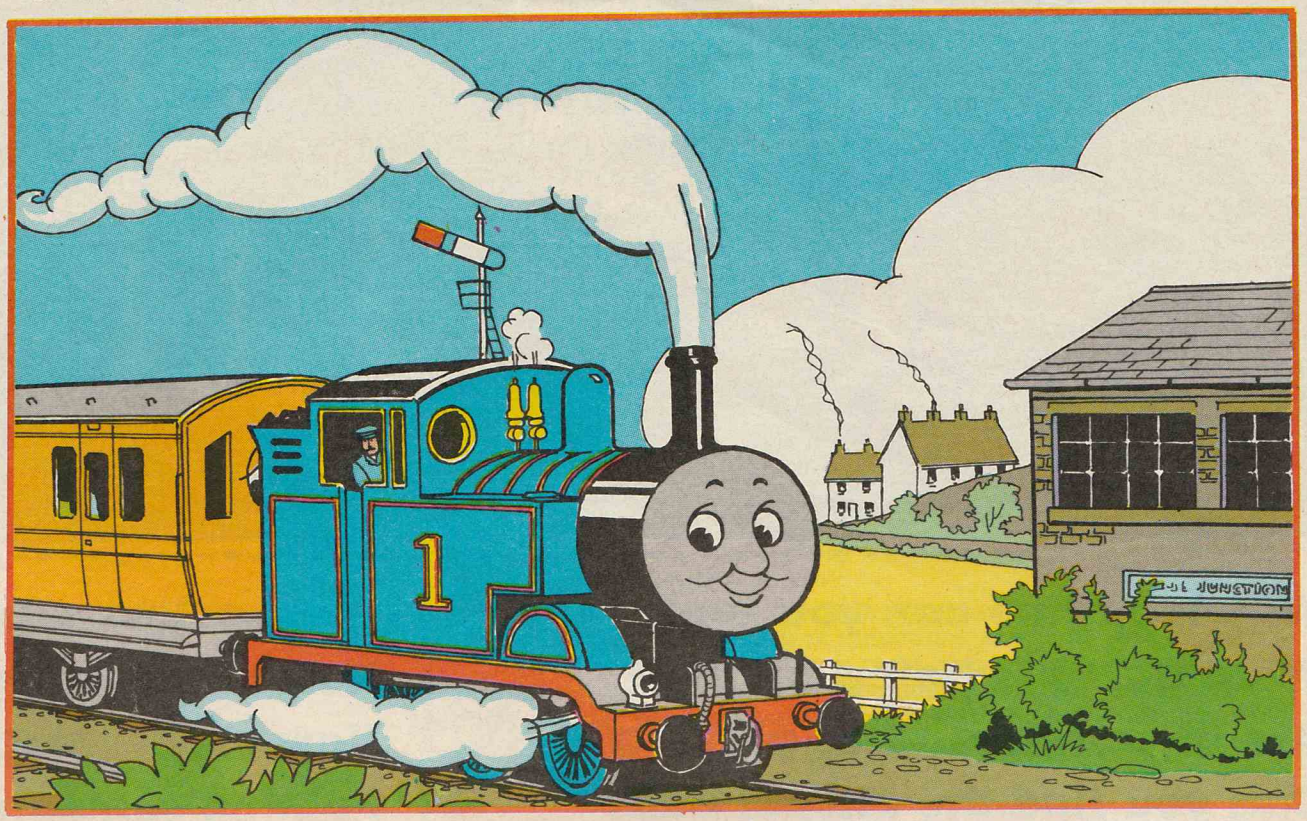
That afternoon Thomas picked up the man at the old station and took him back to the town. The Fat Controller was waiting on the platform. The man got out of Annie and went up to the Fat Controller. "The land around the mine is now safe so we shall be able to build houses on it," he said.

"There will be many more people using the old station then," said the Fat Controller. "We shall have to smarten it up."

"So you are not going to close it?" asked Thomas happily.

"Close it? Dear me no," said the Fat Controller. "It will soon be the busiest station on your line!" Thomas whistled happily and hurried to get his next train so he could soon tell the old Stationmaster.

THE END



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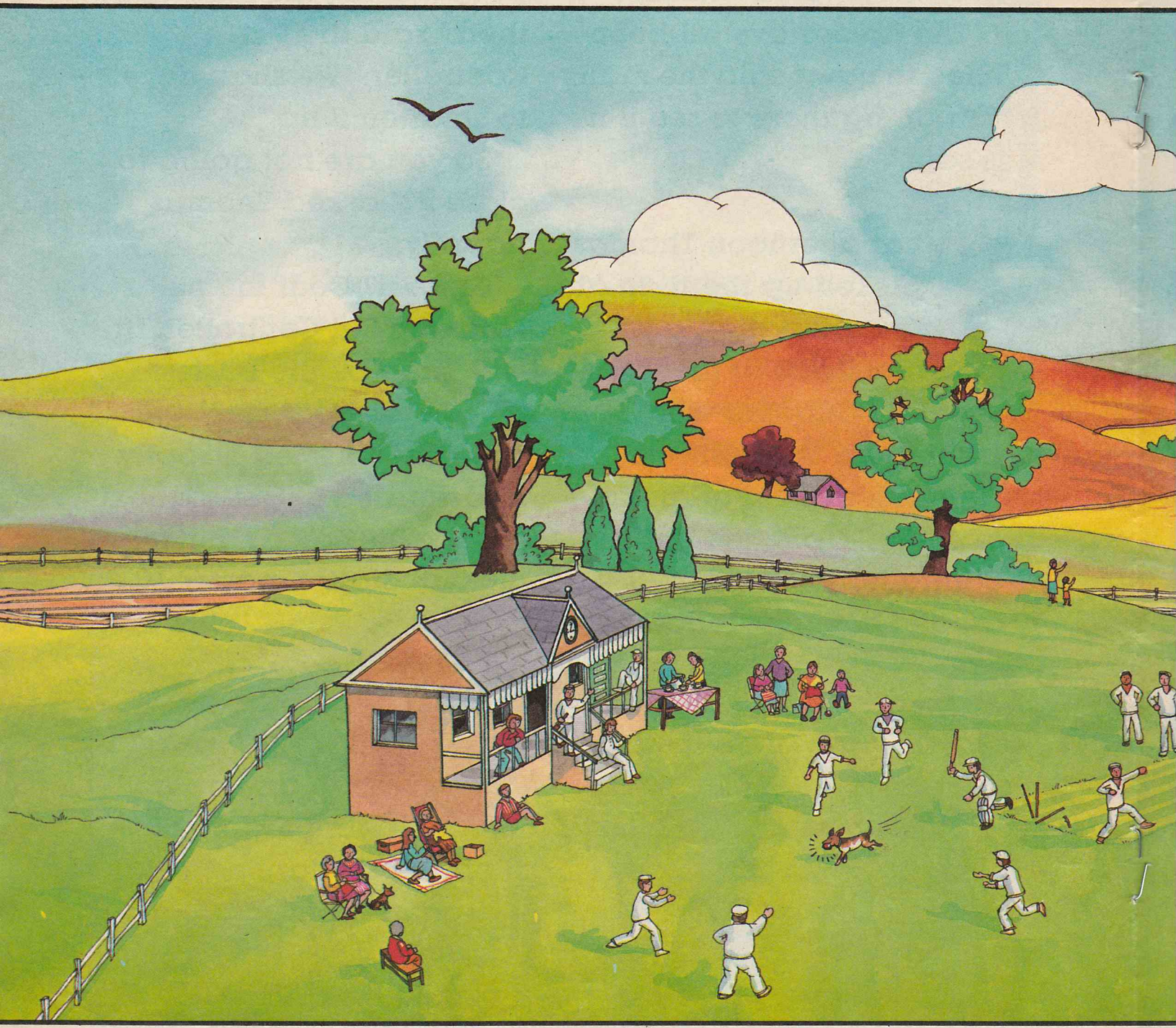


Which engine can you see?

What game is being played?

Are any of the ladies playing?

Can you find the cricket ball?

What colour clothes are

How many birds are flyi

How many people are w

Point to someone knittin

icket match!

are the players wearing?

flying?

re waving to Boco?

itting!

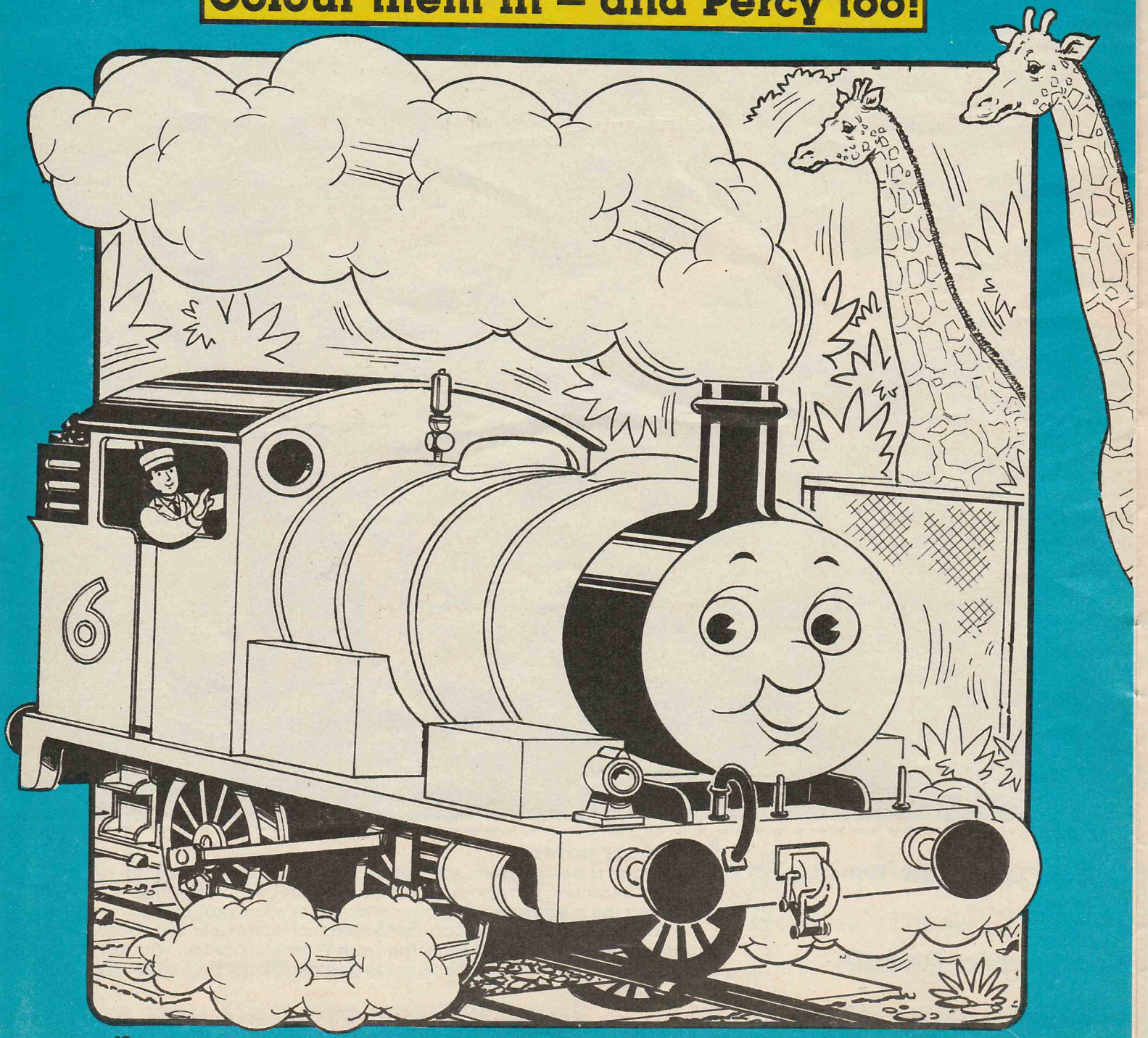
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting aong the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

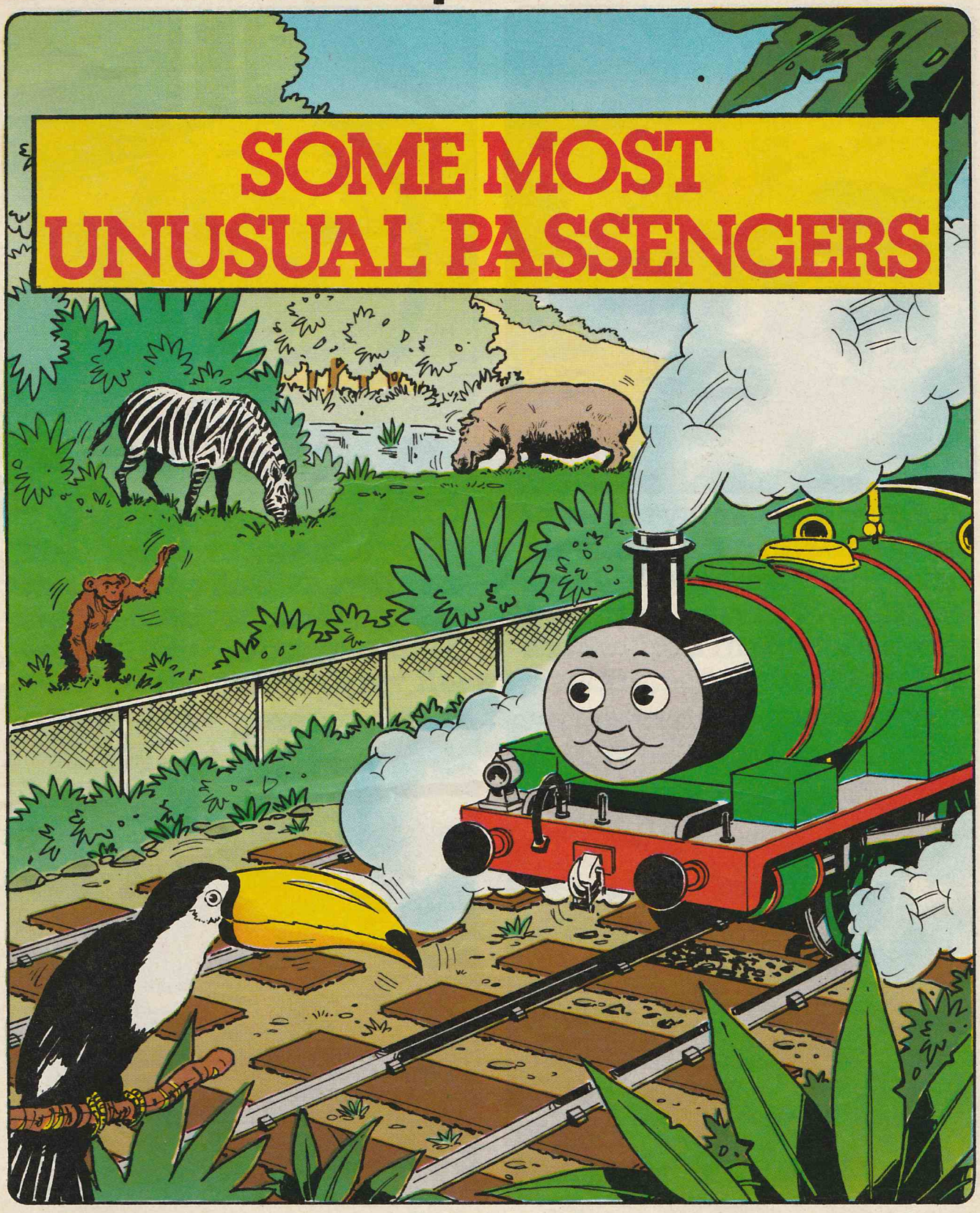
Next issue: By the big house!

COLOURING TIME!

Percy's friends live in the zoo. Colour them in – and Percy too!

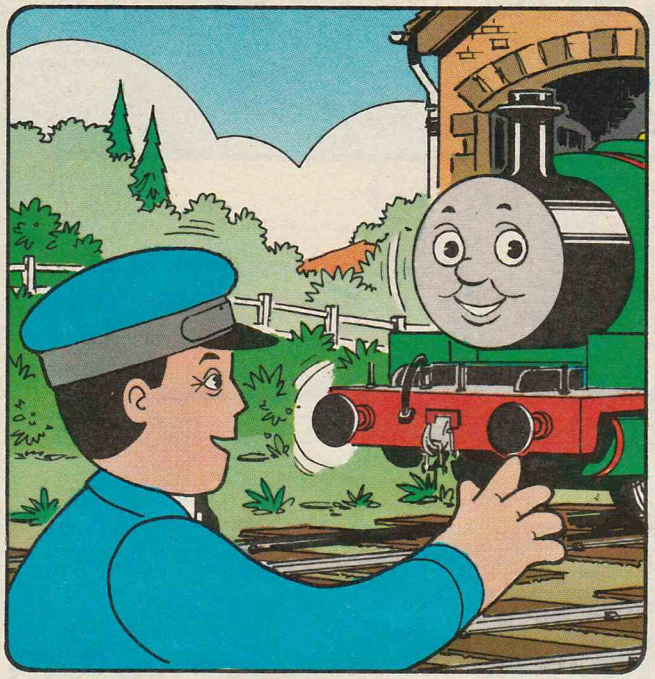


A listen and look story!

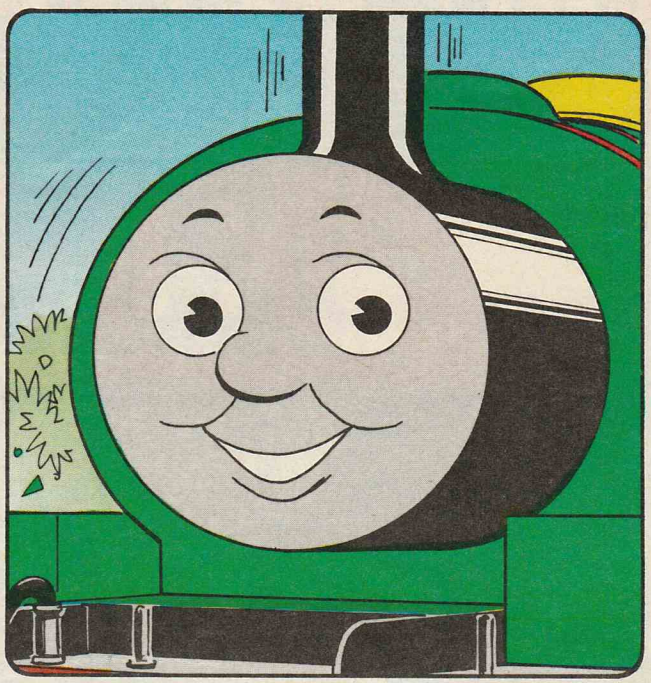


1. On the Island of Sodor there is a beautiful wild-life park. It has not been there long, but it has lots of wonderful animals for people to come to see.

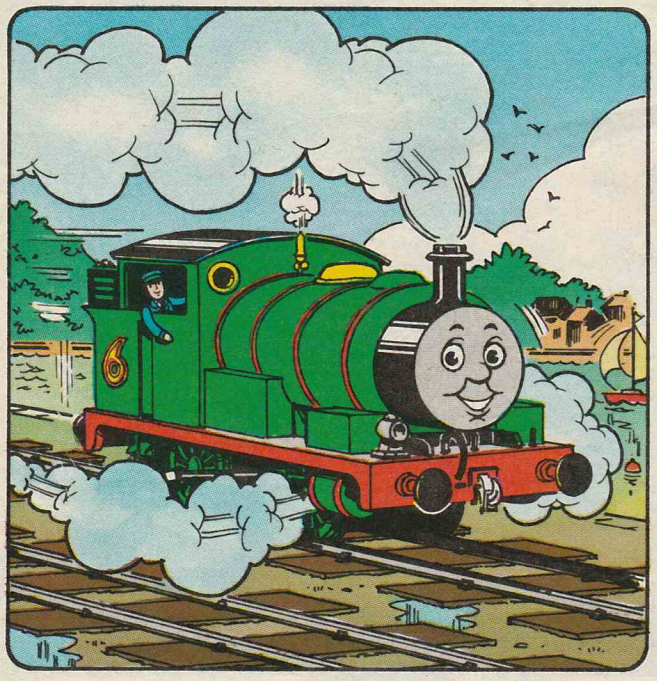
2. Percy loved the wildlife park. He would look out for the animals whenever he was passing that way. He had seen lions and zebras and even a hippopotamus!



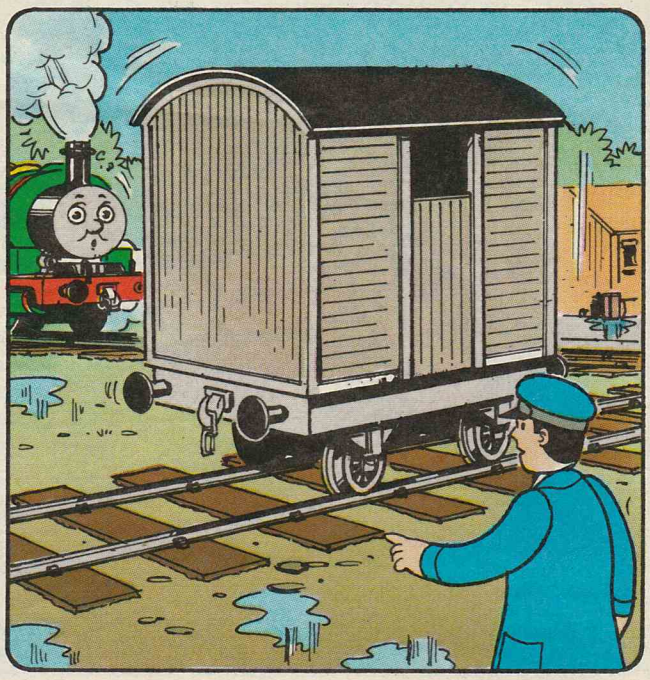
3. One day Percy's driver came in with a big smile on his face. "Morning, Percy!" he said. "We have a special job today. Fat Controller's orders." Percy was curious.



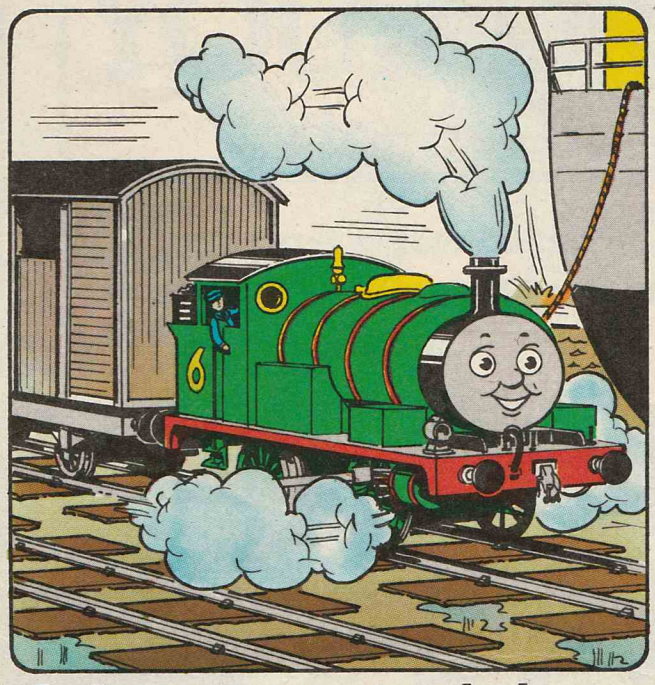
4. "What is it?" he asked. "'Don't know, exactly," said his driver. "We're to collect some unusual passengers at the harbour yard." Percy felt very excited.



5. "Pip peep peep!" whistled Percy as he arrived at the harbour yard. "There's a special truck for you today, Percy," said the harbour stationmaster.



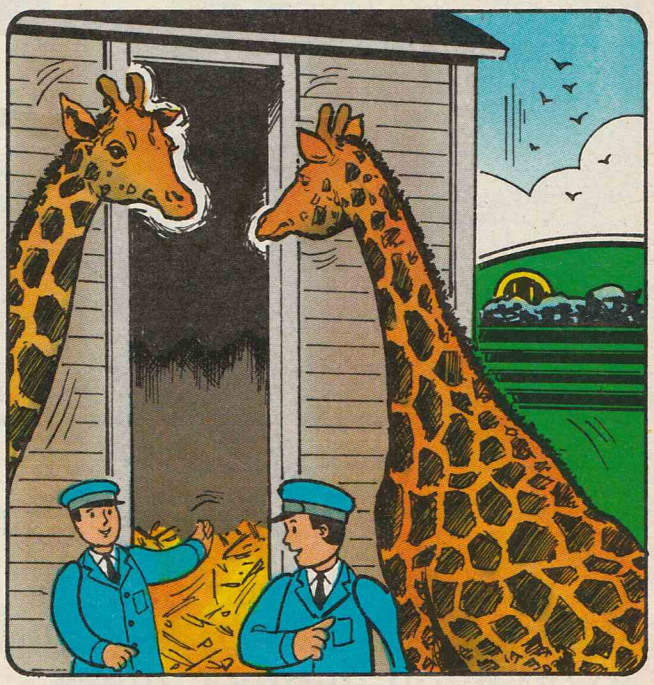
6. Percy puffed over to the siding to collect the truck. It was the funniest truck he had ever seen. It was very tall indeed, with very high doors round the side!



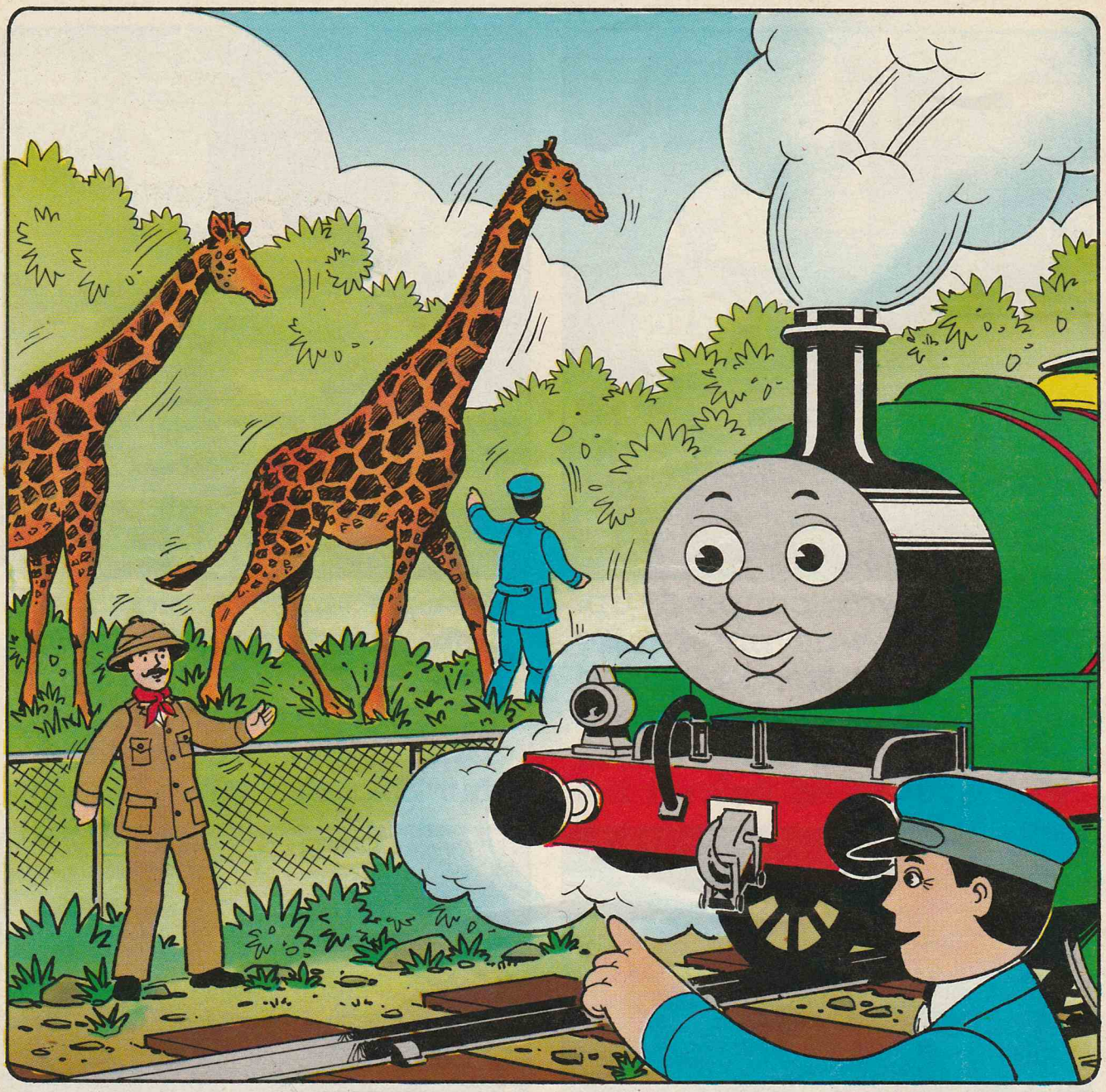
7. Percy was coupled up. The truck was empty. He took it to where a big ship had just come in, then waited for his passengers. Who could they be?

8. There was a big, long ramp leading down from the ship. Percy looked up to see two giraffes walking down it! His driver began to chuckle.

9. "I don't believe it! You **knew** about the giraffes!" said Percy. "Yes," laughed his driver. "But I wanted to surprise you!" Men opened the doors of the tall truck.



10. The giraffes were led into the truck and Percy was ready to go. "You'll have to be gentle, Percy," said his driver. "These passengers will need extra care."



11. They set off for the Wildlife Park. "Just hold on a minute!" exclaimed Percy. "This is not the way to the Wildlife Park!" "We have to go this way," explained his driver. "That truck is too tall to go through any tunnels." Percy puffed along smoothly. He was being very careful. They arrived at the Wildlife Park, at last.

12. The Park Manager was waiting there to greet them. He watched nervously as the giraffes clambered out of the truck, but once he saw they were all alright, he was very pleased. "One day I hope to build a railway to take children through this park," he said. "If I do, Percy, you will be my first choice of engine!"

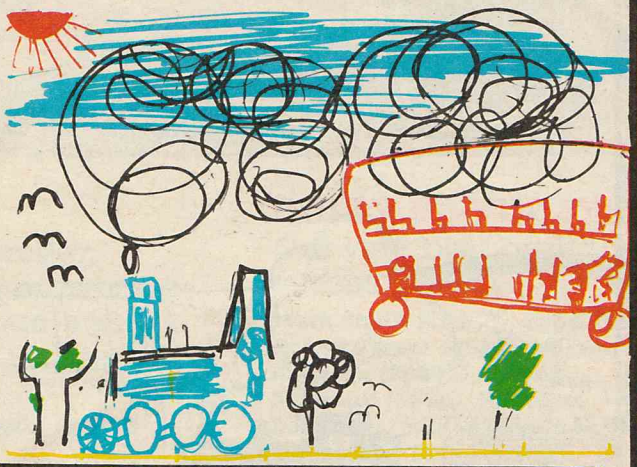
THE END

In our next issue: One good turn!

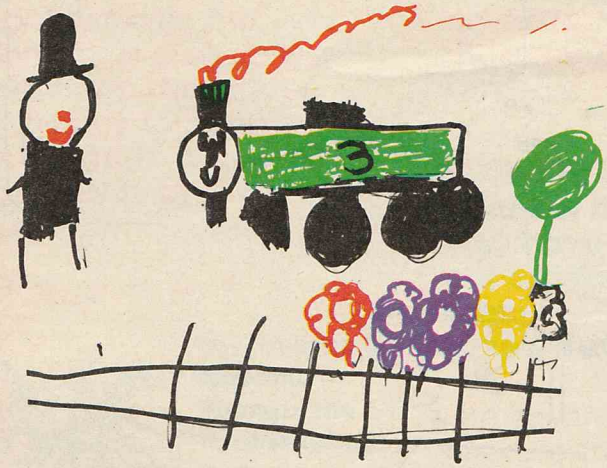
YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent us. Has yours been printed this week?

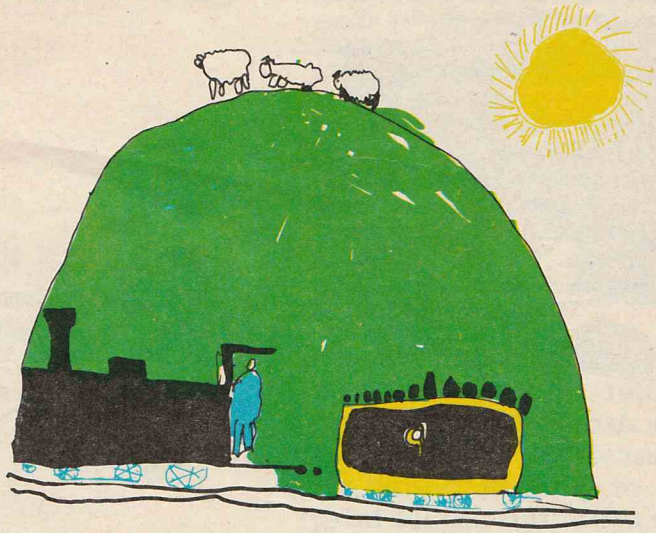
This smart picture of Henry enjoying the bright sunshine was drawn by **James Emerson,** aged 5, from Norfolk.



Can you see Thomas having a race with Bertie? This smart picture was drawn by **Andrew Nicolson,** aged 6.



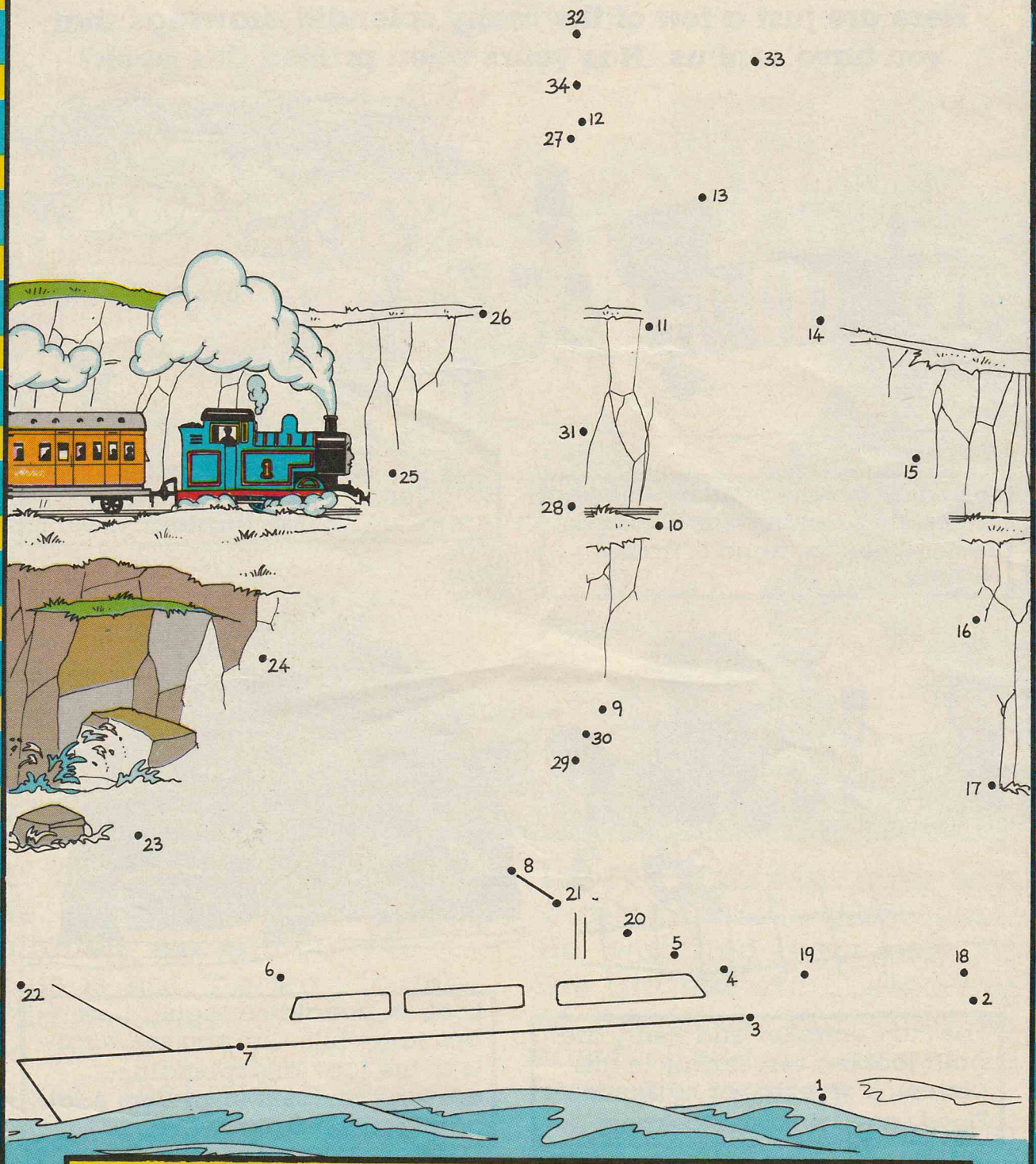
The Fat Controller and Henry are both looking very happy in this picture. It was drawn by **Jamie Flood,** aged 4, from Stockport.



Look at Donald chugging past this large hill. Can you see what is at the top? This splendid drawing was sent in by **Tom Adair,** aged 6.

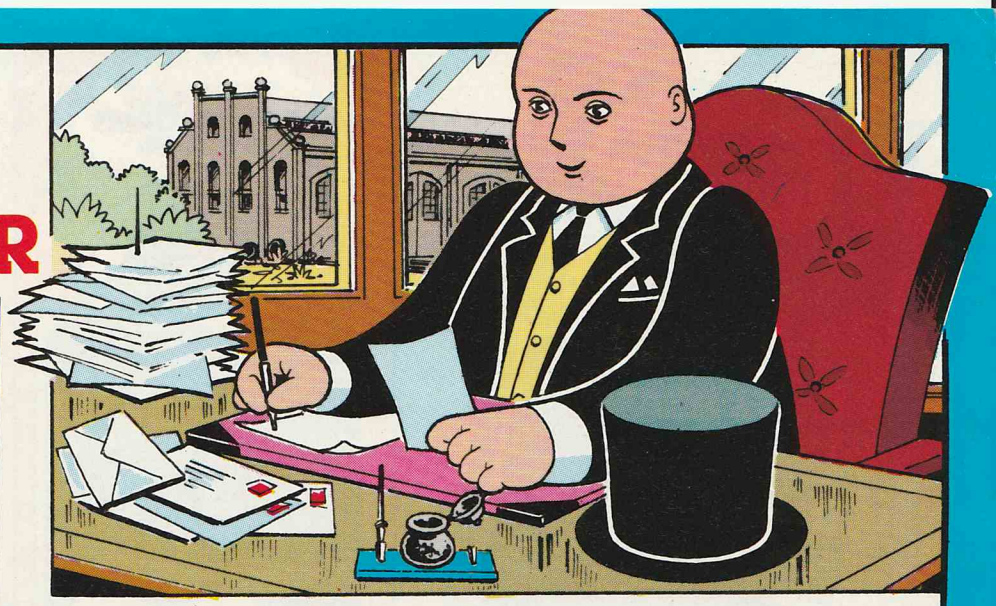
Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one! If you would like to draw a picture for us, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

JOIN THE DOTS!



What do you think Thomas can see? Join the dots to find out, then finish colouring the picture!

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I am starting school soon and I was wondering if it was you who taught Thomas to be clever or did you have to send him to school?
Love from **Nicola,** aged 5 (21884).

Thomas did not go to school exactly, but every day is a learning day for him. He will be very happy to hear that you are off to school soon, and may I wish you all the very best?

★★★★★★★★★

Nicola wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine torch from Unilite Leisure Ltd.

HOW FAST?

Dear Fat Controller,
Do your engines ever go over 10 miles an hour? I love Thomas. I have 3 of of his videos.
From **Michael,** aged 6.

Yes, Michael, my engines very often go over 10 miles an hour, except when they are shunting trucks or working in the quarry. Gordon, as you know, is my fastest engine, and pulls the Express – very, very fast indeed.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Dear Fat Controller,
Why have the engines got old-fashioned names?
Love **David Prettyjohns,** aged 7.

Old-fashioned? Dearie me, are they really? I rather like them, you know.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go to:

Mark Smith (28400), Ryan Platt, Robert Taylor (25865), Gregory Benham (24583), Steven Marshall (3726), Nicholas Bongers (16468), Christopher Kullman (0265), Ashley Parmenter (2631), Joel Weller, Adrian Cooper (28434), Paul Clifford Hodgson (28053), Nicholas Gillard, Adam Fletcher (3915), David Lewis, Benjamin Lewis (19495), Freddie Marks, Philip and Samantha Daley (358), Colin Sales, Ian James Francis, Lee Wallis, Richard Milliken (5897), Natalie Marie Storm (19246), Chris Palmer (25238), Paul Maitland (13369), Chris Rueves (14191), Gavin Creek (19218) and Alex Padixon (2126).

Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try out best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

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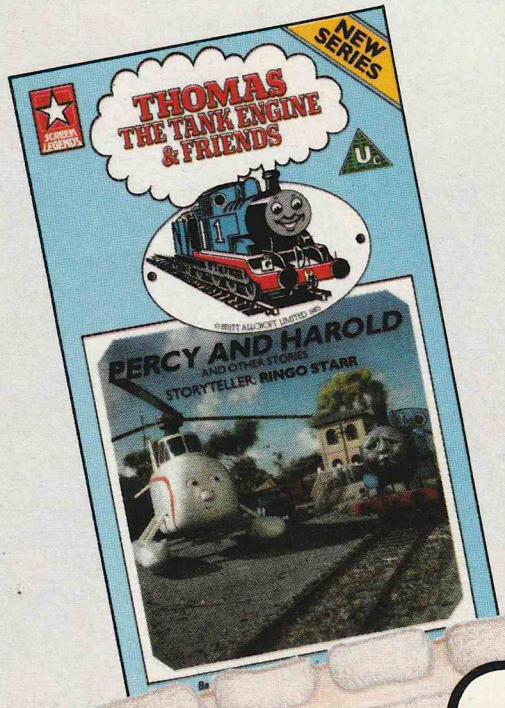

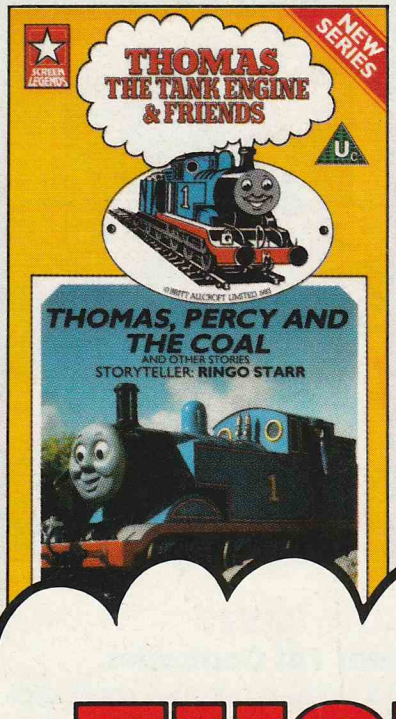

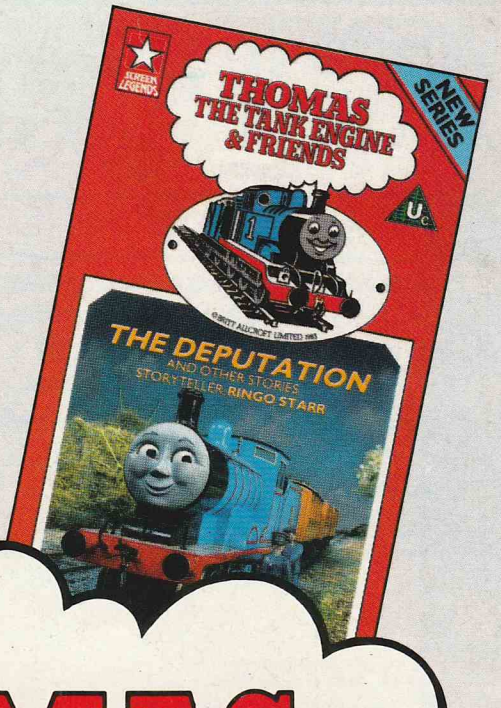

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